

OLLA PODREDA.

The Paris Académie has been investigating the effects of abstinence upon the health of habitual consumers, and has come to the conclusion that the terrible results in official reports are not really due to the small amount of alcohol which is contained in the "liquors" used. In fact if a bottle of absinthe was all absinthe it would be rather less harmful than milk and water. There was even then—not the panes but the tarts; there was the sugar, but the salmon and cucumbers.

A German doctor has made an alarming discovery about absinthe. He has found that in his practice, and having studied the results of conscience about vice, he tried successively to inoculate two others with it, they taking the disease in its highest form. To know that it is infectious adds more to the many horrors connected with this cruel and exacting disease. Nine men out of ten would be less alarmed at almost anything else than at knowing they had taken it.

The year 1895 is a long date to look forward to, but till then will the debt of the late King of Bavaria be liquidated, as they are being reduced out of the Bavarian Civil List at the rate of £25,000 per annum. That arrangement, however, is a plain proof of the "advantage" of being the endorser of Royalists. Had Louis been a royalist, a small dividend would have been paid, and those who would have been an end of the whole matter.

From an account of the mad King Otto of Bavaria published by a contemporary, we learn that His Majesty was a man of great energy and that "the number of his matches had not been enormous as he generally lights a single wick at once, and enjoys throwing it away while in flames." After that it is superfluous to be told that his manner of life is regulated with strict care. If it were not there would, doubtless, be frequent and urgent calls for the local fire brigades to come and put His Majesty out.

A boy named Kawamori Kanekichi has undergone a somewhat novel operation. The son of a farmer at Nambanmura, Ebara-gori, Tokyo, he was born four years ago with his fingers and toes joined by means of skin, the child being first brought up in a wooden trough. Doubtless of freedom from this disability, however, the mother took him to the celebrated Dr. Takagi, who severed the skin connecting the fingers and toes. The operation was witnessed by a large number of medical men and others.

It is not generally known that a rabbit may become quite forcible by training. Some time ago a Mr. Fletcher of Atton, in Chelmsford, Essex, who had a rabbit which would run over a yard a day, was so annoyed by its speed that he cut off its fore-paws. Doubtless of freedom from this disability, however, the mother took him to the celebrated Dr. Takagi, who severed the skin connecting the fingers and toes. The operation was witnessed by a large number of medical men and others.

The Malta, a composite screw ship of 970 tons and 1200 horse power, the first vessel which has been completed in Malta since the days of the Knights of St. John, when the half-way house of the Mediterranean was one of the great shipbuilding yards of Europe. The Malta is to carry eight machine guns, and eight five-inch broadside guns. The finishing touches were put to the ship in October, and she is to be commissioned at Malta. She is to be a hard labour at Malta is both cheap and good, and lack of space is the only reason which prevents the Admiralty from building ships there continually.

A writer in the *Geographische Nachrichten* of Berlin on the cultivation of tobacco in the Ottoman Empire, says that Latakia, which gives its name to the best tobacco, is a small seaport in Northern Syria, which occupied the site of the ancient Antioch, but that it has been so much shocked up with sand, so that only small light-bottomed boats can enter. Behind the town extends a vast plain to the south beyond Jiddeh as far as the range of hills, in which live the Avars, the descendants of the sect of Assassins, so famous in the time of the Crusaders. This tribe is especially noted in the cultivation of Latakia tobacco. The Plain of Koura at the foot of Lebanon also gives excellent Syrian tobacco, the best quality of which is very seldom seen in Europe.

A pleasant incident marked the departure of the Star from Liverpool on the 16th October. Just before leaving the ship the non-commissioned officers and men of the 19th Royal Lanciers came forward spontaneously in a body, and expressed their wish to present to the men of the gallant 5th some memento of the five years the two regiments have spent together at Mysore, and of the comradeship that has existed between them during the whole of that time. It was agreed that the present should take the form of a silver cup to be presented to the Sergeant-Major of the Hussars, and it is hoped the trophy will be ready to meet the regimental trophy in England. Instances of a friendship like this between British and native regiments have been known before, but they will never cease to be worth recording.

The Mysoor Government received Rs. 30,000 as royalty for gold mining in the State in 1887-88, and Rs. 1,000,000 in 1888-89. The yield obtained by the various Kohr Companies weighed 15,403 ozs. in 1887, 35,073 in 1888, and 84,000 ozs. in the first nine months of 1889. The total yield for the current calendar year will probably amount to 120,000 ozs. The Mysoor Government, however, receives the equivalent of 5 per cent. of the gold produced, or upwards, of Rs. 6,000 for the twelve months. Therefore, the yield of gold for the official year 1888-91 may be estimated at 92,000 ozs.; the Mysoor Government will receive about three and a half lakhs of rupees as royalty for the three years 1887-88 to 1888-90, from a part of its territory that was sheer waste before British enterprise undertook to develop it.

The editor of the *Indian Sportsman*, Bengal, was once asked to answer this query—“Can an adjutant bird hold a Newfoundland dog?” “We should think not,” he replied, “unless the bird were like the maid, servante, ‘sin a ver’ fidic’ on. But he adds that these tame creatures can support a cat with as little difficulty as David did Goliath, or a hawk with a herd of crows.” I quote from the *Encyclopaedia* the following passage concerning the adjutant bird: “The bird is sufficiently high to appear when walking like a small Indian. As a proof of its amazing voracity, it has been mentioned that in the course of one day it found a land-tortoise ten inches long and a large black cat entirely in the shell.” Adjutants dover white rats now-a-days, or is the story to be taken with a liberal grain of salt?

The affair between Lieutenant Harris and Rooks and a Pagan thief near Chakan, in which the latter, after being killed, and the other severely wounded, was still alive, remained unexplained, though there was at least one shot at him suggests that the *India Daily News*, that revolver practice must be carefully neglected in the Indian Army. British officers, in fact, do not as a rule, it is to be feared, take that amount of interest and devote that measure of attention either to training their men in rifle drill or qualifying themselves as revolver or rifle experts, and the result is that the Indian Army is not what it might be. There is a Revolver Club, with regular days for practice in every regiment, and every officer should make a point of becoming thoroughly expert in the use of a weapon on the efficient employment of which his life may depend.

That a tiger may readily follow a party for days till it finds a human victim is a well-known fact. In the following case, the method of detection was somewhat peculiar. The sportsman was out after deer in the Upper Siang-bun, and found that whenever he went as he heard the regular footfall (pit-pat, pit-pat) of some beast. This accompanied him all through the jungle, and at last he followed himself the animal could be following his trail in this steady manner except Master Striped Co., taking a short cut, and so he made hasted, and, turning round, saw a tiger of rather small tigress. Covering her in a moment, he slew her outright by the first discharge of a gun of large bore, heavily charged with good-sized shot. There can be no doubt that he had saved his own life or that of one of the native porters with him. There is something peculiar in the idea of that attendant stately tigress pit-patting the jungle. The superstitious sportsman might well feel it is similar to the tick-tick of the stow-insects in the waistcoat which, believed to be a warning of death, has before now frightened many a person invalid to that end.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

(Continued from 1st page.)

REPORTS.
The British steamer *Katong*, from Shanghai 26th November, Amy 29th, and Swatow 30th, left Shanghai in a snowstorm, taking off about Tung-tsa Liang; thence to Swatow, fresh northerly wind, dull and cloudy weather. From thence to port, moderate following winds, dull and rainy weather.

The British steamer *Nan-chow*, from Fuzhou and Singapore 22nd November, reports bad moderate winds and fine weather to Macao Island, strong N.E. monsoon and heavy sea to Macao, moderate winds and fine weather to Amoy, moderate winds and fine weather to Canton, with high tides. Left Macao 26th November, took a north-easterly course towards India, the 23rd Nov. spoke a German barque bound for Rangoon, S.W. lat. 21° 37' N., long. 106° 37' E.

The British steamer *Widow*, from Foochow 25th November, Amy 26th, and Swatow 26th, November, took a north-easterly course to Amoy, moderate winds and fine weather to Canton, with high tides. Left Amoy 27th November, took a north-easterly course towards India, the 28th Nov. spoke a German barque bound for Rangoon, S.W. lat. 21° 37' N., long. 106° 37' E.

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